

**FAIRVIEW WATER DISTRICT
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2026 | 5:00 PM
Tillamook Swiss Hall, 4605 Brookfield Avenue, Tillamook, Oregon**

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a) Budget Officer Melissa Rondeau called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

2. ROLL CALL

- a) Budget Committee Members Present: Richard Obrist, Larry Anderson, Adam Nielsen, Matt Mumford (via telephone), Mark Sybouts
- b) Budget Committee Members Absent: None
- c) Board Members Present: John Casteel, Gary Bond, James Huffman, Dustin Burdick (arrived 6:02 PM)
- d) Board Members Absent: Boyd Rulifson
- e) Staff Present: General Manager Michael Ostensen, Office Manager/Budget Officer Melissa Rondeau
- f) Visitors Present: Don Aufdermauer, Taylor Aufdermauer, Doug Barker, Joseph Barker, Tilda Chadwick-Jones, Daniel Emmons, Brian Beeler, Derrick Josi, Chad Martin, Adam Nielsen, Richard Obrist, Luke Oldenkamp, Rick Steel, Bruce Thomas, Michael Tohl

3. ELECTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIR

Motion by Larry Anderson and seconded by Matt Mumford to elect Richard Obrist as Budget Committee Chair for the fiscal year 2026-27.

*Vote: Aye: Obrist, Anderson, Nielsen, Mumford, Sybouts, Casteel, Bond, Huffman
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion passed 8-0*

4. DESIGNATION OF MEETING RECORDER

- a) Rondeau was unanimously designated as meeting recorder.

5. BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Rondeau presented the budget message and an overview of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27. A line-by-line review of the proposed budget was conducted.

- a) The following items generated discussion:

- i. **Line items 23-24 (Payroll Benefits, Wages, and Taxes):** Discussion was held regarding the need for four full-time employees. No changes were made to the proposed amounts.
 - ii. **Line 35 (County Lease Agreement):** The County has not invoiced the District in several years. Staff requested an increase from \$200 to \$600 for fiscal year 2026-27.
 - iii. **Line 43 (Water Compliance, Reports, and Testing):** Due to new state-mandated PFAS testing requirements, staff requested an increase from \$4,000 to \$8,000 for fiscal year 2026-27. The amount is an estimate due to limited available information.
 - iv. **Line 67 (Capital Improvements & Repairs):** This line was reduced to \$4,400 to offset increases to Lines 35 and 43.
- b) Nielsen expressed concern regarding the limited funds available for grant application efforts and recommended pursuing 100% reimbursement grant opportunities.
 - c) Chair Obrist opened the floor for public comment.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Tilda Chadwick-Jones inquired about a potential future rate increase. While the Board is currently considering a rate increase, the proposed fiscal year 2026-27 budget does not include one.
- b) Derrick Josi asked about the necessity of adding a fourth staff member. General Manager Ostensen stated that the District has historically operated understaffed and that four employees represent a minimum staffing level. He explained that state safety and compliance requirements mandate a three-person crew for excavation and repair work, and that prior practices did not meet these standards. He further clarified that non-employees cannot fulfill required supervisory roles. Josi expressed concern regarding personnel costs, noting that staffing and contracted services represent a considerable portion of the budget. Ostensen explained that the District lacks certain equipment and relies on contracted services for specialized work such as crane operations, excavation, roadside and ditch work, and site restoration.
- c) Ostensen stated that historical underinvestment in the District's infrastructure has resulted in widespread system deficiencies. He noted that many components are over 40 years old and that little replacement had occurred for at least 20 years prior to his arrival at the District. Recent investments have been made to address these issues, with the expectation that costs will decrease over time.
- d) Josi also asked about the potential acquisition of another water district and Fairview's ability to absorb additional aging infrastructure. Obrist, speaking as a representative of Hunt Water District, explained their position and reasons for seeking annexation.

7. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)

- a) No additional Budget Committee meetings will be held to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2026-27.

8. APPROVE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX AMOUNT OR RATE TO BE LEVIED

Motion by Larry Anderson and seconded by Mark Sybouts to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27, with amendments to Lines 35, 43, and 67.

*Vote: Aye: Obrist, Anderson, Nielsen, Mumford, Sybouts, Casteel, Burdick, Bond, Huffman
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion passed 9-0*

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Richard Obrist and seconded by Mark Sybouts to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM

*Vote: Aye: Obrist, Anderson, Nielsen, Mumford, Sybouts, Casteel, Burdick, Bond, Huffman
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion passed 9-0*